

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the U.S. Nationalization Application
of PCT/EP99/02544 of

SCHUMACHER et al.

Intl. Filing Date: April 15, 1999

US Serial No.: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD OF CATALYTIC DECOMPOSITION OF N_2O

BOX PCT

3/14
D.G.
12-18-00

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified U.S. National Stage application, kindly
amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1-10.

Please add claims 11-18 as follows

-- 11. A reactor for the catalytic oxidation of ammonia to nitrogen oxides, which
contains a noble metal gauze catalyst and a heat exchanger in that order in the direction
of flow and has a catalyst for the decomposition of N_2O which can be prepared by
combining $CuAl_2O_4$ with tin, lead and/or an element of main group II or transition group II
of the Periodic Table of the Elements as oxide or salt or in elemental form and
subsequently calcining the mixture at from 300 to 1300°C and a pressure in the range from
0.1 to 200 bar located between the noble metal gauze catalyst and the heat exchanger.

12. A reactor as claimed in claim 11, wherein a noble metal recovery gauze is
located between the noble metal gauze catalyst and the catalyst for the decomposition of
 N_2O .

005207 24042950

5/3/01